

Remarks

Claims 7-10 and 19-23 are pending in the application.

Claim rejections

Section 102

Claims 7-10 and 19-23 were rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Davis et al. (US 6,367,009) ("Davis"). The Applicant respectfully traverses for at least the reason that Davis contains no disclosure regarding an authorized machine or a pre-authorized network element as required by the present claims.

In Davis's arrangement, no server is pre-authorized. Instead, an MTS (middle tier server) and an ETS (end tier server) must exchange "certificates" before a "secure session" is established between the MTS and the ETS. See, e.g., col. 15, lines 25-35. Then, the MTS sends to the ETS a "delegation document" produced by an earlier exchange of certificates between a client and the MTS. See, e.g., FIG. 6 and col. 10, lines 19-51, col. 11 lines 65-67 to col. 12, lines 1-2, and col. 14, lines 48-65. Then, the ETS must verify the MTS's certificate and validate the delegation document before any transaction may take place between the client and the ETS. This is described at col. 15 beginning at line 45:

"When the ETS receives the server's certificate and the signed delegate document, it first verifies the server's certificate in the normal manner and then processes the delegate document. This delegate document processing validates that the first-tier client authorized the MTS to assume the client's identity, and comprises: (1) authenticating the client's signature on the signed document; (2) checking the validity of the client's certificate; (3) checking that this second session was set up by the MTS using the certificate from the signed document; (4) optionally (as described below), checking that the ETS certificate contained in the signed delegate document is correct or this ETS; and (5) checking any additional restrictions in the signed document. "

Accordingly, there is no authorized machine or pre-authorized network element in Davis; all exchanges between servers and clients involve extensive validation checks. Davis' arrangement therefore lacks the convenience of the present invention as

claimed, wherein an access requester or user may assume the identity of a pre-authorized machine or network element to gain access to resources.

In view of the above, the claims are allowable over Davis. Withdrawal of the asserted rejection is therefore respectfully requested.

Conclusion

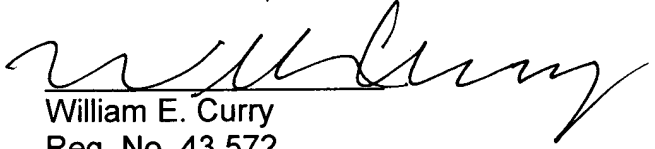
In light of the above discussion, Applicant respectfully submits that the present application is in all aspects in allowable condition, and earnestly solicits favorable reconsideration and early issuance of a Notice of Allowance.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (202) 220-4323 to discuss any matter concerning this application. The Office is authorized to charge any fees related to this communication to Deposit Account No. 11-0600.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: AUG. 2, 2005

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